



For Immediate Release:  
January 17, 2020

**Miami-Dade County Classrooms Convert, Paint, and Install Rain Barrels in their Community**

(Miami) Barrels by the Bay, a non-profit organization committed to using rain barrels to educate individuals about conservation and sustainability, is teaming up with Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC (Coke Florida) to launch the Barrels by the Bay Everglades Project on Friday, January 17, 2020. As a continued commitment to water stewardship and making a sustainable impact at the local level, Coke Florida has donated their syrup barrels to be “upcycled” and converted into rain barrel systems. Miami-Dade County public and private schools will participate in the school program to paint the rain barrels for installation into local infrastructure.

Fifty (50) syrup drums and rain barrel conversion kits will be distributed to registered classrooms in Miami-Dade County, Florida at the Coke Florida Miami-Dade location on Friday, January 17th. UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade County Representatives will be available to speak with the teachers at the distribution on how to use rain barrels to start growing their own school gardens with their students. The Everglades Project gives students of all ages the opportunity to learn more about their local waterways and how stormwater runoff concerns can be minimized through the use of rain barrels. In addition to the rain barrels, participating teachers will be provided all painting, education, and installation materials for the project. All painted rain barrels will be installed into local infrastructure of the classrooms’ choosing, helping to protect their community’s water resources.

“The Everglades Project teaches students in Miami-Dade County the importance of sustaining our world’s water resources through rain barrels. The Everglades are an important part of the region, and throughout the program, students will combine creativity through art and environmental education to gain a greater appreciation of the importance of water conservation in their communities,” Megan Rosenberger, Barrels by the Bay President and Founder.

“Water resources are crucial to our environment, our communities, and our local business,” says Erin Black, Coke Florida’s VP of Sustainability and Risk Management. “Through our community pillars, we are proud to support water replenishment initiatives in Florida and the work being done to educate our Florida consumers. During the Everglades Project, hundreds of students in South Florida will learn about conserving water at their school through a fun, hands-on approach. Students may then take these learnings back home to their families and encourage more sustainable behaviors.”

Please visit [www.barrelsbythebay.org](http://www.barrelsbythebay.org) to learn more about the Barrels by the Bay Everglades Project.

### **About Barrels by the Bay**

In March 2015, while a midshipman at the US Naval Academy, Megan Rosenberger founded Barrels by the Bay, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate individuals about world's water resources through rain barrel. Since Barrels by the Bay's founding in 2015, it has reached over 20,000 participants in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Florida and Washington, D.C. Over 800 rain barrels have been painted and installed in communities, reducing millions of gallons of stormwater runoff annually. Barrels by the Bay is committed to educating individuals and improving our world's water resources through rain barrels. For more information about Barrels by the Bay, visit [www.barrelsbythebay.org](http://www.barrelsbythebay.org).

### **About Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC**

Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC (Coke Florida) is a family-owned independent Coca-Cola bottler. Coke Florida's exclusive sales and distribution territory covers over 18 million consumers across 47 Florida counties, and includes the major metropolitan markets of Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando and Tampa. Coke Florida manufactures, sells, and distributes over 600 products of The Coca-Cola Company and other partner companies including Monster Energy and BODYARMOR. Coke Florida is the third largest privately-held, and the sixth-largest independent bottler of Coca-Cola products in the United States. The company is also one of America's largest black-owned businesses. Coke Florida was founded in 2015 and is headquartered in Tampa, Florida. For more information, please visit [cocacolafloida.com](http://cocacolafloida.com).

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